

out of them, and in answer to questions they only say that nothing has been heard of any kind of disturbance among the natives and that everything is going on as of old.

Many strange faces are now seen throughout the place, and these people, numbering a few hundred, according to some, and to others three thousand, are said to have been driven from the island on the other side of the Strait; anyhow, they are a lot of miscellaneous coolies with many of them of a suspicious and cunning appearance.

So far, I am happy to say, nothing has happened to mar the quietude enjoyed by foreigners in this dull corner of the world, and with the apparent solicitude of the authorities it is to be hoped that nothing extraordinary will take place.

THE KUCHING MASSACRE.

THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. Kuching, 18th October.

Last Saturday we reported another crisis in the proceedings. The Chinese had come so long that H.R.M. Consul thought it advisable to have a personal interview with the Viceroy and he left Kuching on Thursday, the 16th, arriving in Fochow on Saturday morning. He was accompanied by Rev. W. Banister. It was a curious coincidence that Admiral Butler should have arrived in the river on the same day. No representation of this had been planned. Mr. Mansfield's interview with His Excellency took place on Monday and was somewhat prolonged. We do not, of course, know all that took place during the interview, but the results which we do know to have been entirely satisfactory, we may believe that Mr. Mansfield felt, for the first time since this investigation commenced, the effect of the moral support his Government had sent him to give him. The progress which Mr. Mansfield had made in this business up to the time of this crisis appears to those who know the Chinese officials and their ways of proceeding. Mr. Consul has been intimately acquainted with the Chinese or, by the study of their character, one of the best part of a lifetime, equally able to deal with them, could have effected what he has done. But he has been supported by his Government, and he will be able to bring the investigation to a satisfactory issue; but no strength of the support ought to be withdrawn until the work is completed.

Mr. Mansfield should have arrived at Kuching last evening. We understand the programme to be that for the first time the investigation should be conducted at Kuching at once and the four leaders sent down to Kuching for execution. The remaining captured criminals are to be hanged for life, but whether this will be done at once is not known. The examination of the captured prisoners will then commence, and it is thought that the investigation as far as it will go, will be completed by the end of the month. The Viceroy has undertaken to continue the search for those who have fled, and as time goes on, and as captures are made the arrested are to be sent down to Fochow for trial.

FACTION FIGHT AT BANGKOK.

Bangkok, 8th October.

A serious fight between Chinese secret societies commenced about 2 p.m. on Saturday at Wat Koh, and is stated to have resulted in the death of one man. Several Chinese were wounded, and the Sin Ly Ku Society were mauling a dead fish at Wat Koh when the cargo coolies of the Geo. Hok Gullid are said to have discovered an attempt on the part of the former to retain secret society. Another and reliable account states that the row arose about the use of a plank as a gangway and that the Geo. Hok were the aggressors. High works were set on fire by the Sin Ly Ku, and the Chinese were subjected to a severe beating. The row quickly extended over a distance of several hundred yards. All the Geo. Hok men poured out armed with their arms and started to run, and were in large numbers, while the Sin Ly Ku only numbered forty-seven. The police for a time were powerless, but when reinforcements arrived in making several arrests. Ultimately a party of armed men despatched by H.H. Phra Ong Kham from the Naval Dockyard arrived, just as the Sin Ly Ku were driven to their boats or into the river and compelled to seek shelter on the opposite bank, and the cargo boats in the vicinity were seized by the naval force and retained pending inquiries. One man is said to have been killed by a shot of a rifle in the neck; another had an arm almost cut off; another received a cleft shoulder; and one is missing—supposed to have been drowned while swimming the river. Several of the wounded are now in a precarious condition. An incident which occurred after the fight instances the methods to which the rival factions will resort. A Sin Ly Ku, in no way concerned in the disturbance, while standing at a gambling shop near Tychin, was set upon and beaten senseless by the Geo. Hoks. Believing their victim dead, the Geo. Hoks then decided to cut off his head and represent the body as that of a Geo. Hok, a proof of the ill-will they were subjected to. The plot had so stimulating an effect on the supposedly dead man, who lay listening to the plan, that he jumped up and away. Great confusion ensued, and the Geo. Hoks were set upon and beaten senseless by the Sin Ly Ku, and even yesterday it was feared a renewal of the fighting would take place. Both banks of the river were on Saturday under a strong guard to prevent further hostilities. The Geo. Hoks men who challenged the Sin Ly Ku to fight, and are thus responsible for the outbreak, are—Ah Song, Ah Hok, Ah Kiang, Ah Kwa Hui, Ah Toon, Ah Pong, and Kai Moan. It was reported that the Geo. Hoks have been very aggressive, and while they have two or three chiefs the Sin Ly Ku are without a chief which is taken advantage of by the former. —Bangkok Times.

ACTORS IN THE EAST.

The Times of India has some very sensible remarks on this subject, citing out of a long article in the London Era in connection with theatrical companies in the East. The sentiment expressed will, we fancy, commend themselves to most of our readers. One Bombay contemporary says:—A well known actor, Calcutta in the East, last was "full of stranded actors," a melancholy circumstance enough in its way, but one which it is not difficult to explain, as we are now in a period of theatrical depression in this country. The Era correspondent observes that a large percentage of the people who attend theatres in the East are originally from the British Isles, mostly of the middle class, and that they are, with the best performances of London West-end houses, and, not being devoid of education and critical discrimination, are far from satisfied with the crude and inferior quality of an inefficient company. "Indian audiences," the writer goes on to say, "composed, for the most part, of civil servants, military officials, merchants, and seafarers, are only too willing to recognise the quality and risk incurred in conveying them or twenty artists to their distant and sun-baked land, as well as make every allowance for the fact that they are not the most successful players being presented or 'murdered' by indifferent or incapable people, and, as a consequence, confine themselves to their habitual social and domestic pleasures, under such conditions." Shakespeare, which is legendarily supposed to be the best of the English, is in the tropics, transportation drama is taboo; what the Anglo-Indian wants is comedy and burlesque. This being the state of affairs it can scarcely be a source of astonishment that managers or proprietors of limited capital, parsimonious tendencies, and possessed of a short-sighted or ill-considering readiness to accept the services of the most deservingly rejected artists, but the balance-sheet of the first month fatally inclined against them, together with the obvious necessity of closing their doors and leaving the individuals of the company to their own devices. There can be no doubt that the actors in the East will not be able out of their own experience to confirm this eminently sensible view. A good company will always command respect, but, as we said, the other, as in the article already mentioned, so many poor companies have sought to make a happy hunting-ground of India, and have come to such hopeless grief, that India has acquired a bad name in the profession, and only a few few managers have courage enough to risk an enterprise out of which so many have emerged penniless. If theatrical managers at home will take the lesson and, as the Era correspondent, but not restore their eyes with a specially selected and efficient company, which need not number more than twelve or fifteen experienced artists, they will no longer need to complain that an Indian tour spoils them.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

THURSDAY, 24th October.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

Of London. Telegraphic Transfer. Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight. Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight. Credit, at 4 months' sight. Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight.

Of Paris. Bank Bills, on demand. Credit, at 4 months' sight. Credit, at 4 months' sight. Credit, at 4 months' sight.

Of Bombay. Telegraphic Transfer. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand.

Of Shanghai. Telegraphic Transfer. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand.

Of Yokohama. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand.

Of Singapore. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand. Bank, on demand.

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate. GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per ounce.

COMPANY. PAID UP. QUOTATIONS. Bank of China. Bank of China. Bank of China.

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SHIPPING REPORT.

The British steamer "Hellas," from London.

20th Oct. Amoy 22nd, and Swatow 23rd, and fresh N.E. monsoon and moderate sea and fine clear weather throughout to Amoy. From Amoy and Swatow and clear weather to about 13 miles south of the Lanchow. The wind then commenced to blow from the N.W.E., accompanied by falling rain, weather remaining unchanged to Swatow. In Amoy—German man-of-war "Arcona," British steamer "Hellas," and "Hellas."

October. AMOY SHIPPING. 13. Nippon Mail, British steamer, from Fochow. 14. Amoy, German steamer, from Nanchow. 15. Fochow, British steamer, from Amoy. 16. Fochow, British steamer, from Amoy. 17. Fochow, British steamer, from Amoy.

October. AMOY SHIPPING. 18. Nippon Mail, British steamer, from Fochow. 19. Amoy, German steamer, from Nanchow. 20. Fochow, British steamer, from Amoy. 21. Fochow, British steamer, from Amoy. 22. Fochow, British steamer, from Amoy.

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TO LET.

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THE FIVE-ROOMED BUNGALOW. "ELLIS LODGE," Richmond Road. Ten Minutes from the City. Apply to: CHANTREY INCHBALD, Hongkong, 25th September, 1895. [1883]

TO LET. With Immediate Entry. HOUSE on NORMAN ROAD, with Seven Rooms and all Conveniences. Apply to: Dr. J. C. THOMSON, Hongkong, 22nd October, 1895. [1884]

TO LET. No. 3 WEST VILLA. Apply to: G. U. ANDERSON, Hongkong, 21st October, 1895. [1873]

TO LET. FURNISHED. "TARAWERA." THE SIX-ROOMED BUNGALOW, with seven feet basement, Concrete, situated on UPPER KOWLOON ROAD. Apply to: A. O'D. GOURDIN, No. 43, Lyndhurst Terrace, Hongkong, 24th October, 1895. [2082]

TO LET. LARGE GODOWN on KOWLOON PEAK, suitable for the Storage of General Cargo or Coal. Apply to: LINSTED & DAVIS, Hongkong, 24th July, 1895. [1416]

TO LET. TWO GOOD SHOPS, in the best part of QUEEN'S ROAD. A SIX-ROOMED HOUSE in WANCHAI. CHAMBERS at WILD DILL BUILDINGS, MORRISON HILL. Apply to: JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, 12th August, 1895. [2054]

TO LET. THE Premises formerly occupied by W. ROBINSON & Co. Exceptional Position. Good Light. Possession from MAY 1st. Apply to: W. ROBINSON & CO., UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL, Hongkong, 2nd July, 1895. [700]

TO LET. DWELLING HOUSES—HOUSES in RYTON TERRACE, ERANES BUNGALOW, 3 Rooms, KOWLOON. "LARKS," UPPER RICHMOND ROAD, 7-roomed detached House, with Garden and Lawn Tennis Court. FURNISHED or UNFURNISHED. OFFICE: FIRST FLOOR, No. 7, PRATA CENTRAL, lately occupied by Messrs. HOLLAND, WIFE & Co. Apply to: THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD., Hongkong, 25th October, 1895. [1869]

TO LET. No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET, 6-roomed Dwelling House, at the PEAK; FURNISHED, from NOVEMBER 15th till APRIL next. Apply to: DAVID SASSOON, SONS & CO., Hongkong, 21st October, 1895. [2110]

TO BE LET. FROM 1st AUGUST. A SIX-ROOMED HOUSE—20, CAINE ROAD. Apply to: PROCURE DES MESSIEURS ETIENNE, 15, CAINE ROAD, Hongkong, 2nd July, 1895. [1372]

BOARD AND RESIDENCE. COMFORTABLY FURNISHED ROOMS, with Board. Apply to: Mr. MATHER, 2, Peddar's Hill, Hongkong, 1st January, 1892. [2]

JUST LANDED. CHAMPAGNE EUGENE CLICQUOT. Per Case 3 doz. Pints \$28.00. SOLE AGENTS FOR CHINA AND JAPAN. E. RICCO & CO., Hongkong, 12th September, 1895. [1908]

CARBOLINEUM-AVENARIUS Used for 16 Years. Thoroughly reliable preservative for Wood and Stone against White Ants, Decay, Fungus, Rot, and Dampness. SOLE AGENTS FOR CHINA, E. RICCO & CO., Hongkong, 25th January, 1892. [215]

TO SHIPMASTERS. ENQUIRE where your FRESH WATER is obtained by the Water Boats, as FRESH WATER is the cause of much sickness on board Ship. We are the ONLY WATER BOAT COMPANY in HONGKONG EXCLUSIVELY supplying FILTERED WATER. CALL FRANK W. J. W. KEW & CO., STEAM WATER BOAT COMPANY, Hongkong, 9th October, 1895. [1240]

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